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PLANES 10-16  
WITH POLICY

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U.S. AIRLINE INDUSTRY  
SOURCE SAYS AIRCRAFT WILL  
NOT FLY IN WAR ZONE

BY ROBERT F. BUCKHORN

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- IF THE PENTAGON ORDERS THE U.S. AIRLINE INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE JETLINERS FOR THE AIRLIFT TO ISRAEL, THE JETS WILL NOT FLY INTO THE WAR ZONE "AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT," INFORMED INDUSTRY SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE SOURCES SAID THE CIVILIAN PLANS WOULD BE USED TO "TAKE UP THE SLACK CAUSED BY THE DIVERSION OF MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND JETS FOR AIRLIFT WORK."

THE PENTAGON MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH THE SCHEDULED AND THE CHARTER AIRLINES MONDAY TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE CALL-UP OF CIVILIAN JETS.

BUT "NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AT THIS TIME," THE PENTAGON SAID AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.

IF THE PENTAGON DOES ASK FOR CIVILIAN JETLINERS "THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF ANY IMMEDIATE DISRUPTION OF AIR SERVICE" IN THE UNITED STATES, THE SOURCES SAID.

THE MAJOR U.S. AIRLINES TO ISRAEL AND THE ARAB NATIONS--PAN AMERICAN AND TRANS WORLD--CURTAILED SERVICE SHORTLY AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING.

ANY CIVILIAN AIRLINERS CALLED UP IMMEDIATELY BY THE PENTAGON WOULD BE JET FREIGHTERS OF JETLINERS CAPABLE OF BEING CONVERTED EASILY INTO FREIGHTERS, AND WOULD NOT AFFECT PASSENGER FLIGHTS.

"THEIR ROLE WILL BE TO REPLACE MILITARY PLANES PULLED OFF FLIGHTS WHERE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN CARRYING U.S. DEPENDENTS, OR CARGO FOR MILITARY BASES IN EUROPE, THE SOURCE SAID.

THE CIVILIAN JETLINER FLEETS TOTALS ABOUT 2,200 PLANES, BUT THE SOURCES SAID THE PENTAGON WOULD REQUIRE ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT IF A DECISION WERE MADE TO CALL UP THE PLANES, THE SOURCE SAID.

THE SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT NONE OF THE AIRLINES "WERE PLACED ON ALERT," BUT THAT THE SITUATION "WAS FLUID" AND COULD CHANGE ON SHORT NOTICE.

DURING THE SOUTHEAST ASIA WAR, BOTH THE SCHEDULED AND THE CHARTER AIRLINES CARRIED MEN AND SUPPLIES TO THE VIETNAM UNDER CONTRACT TO THE MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND.

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